

Express Mail Label No. EL20959982US  
U.S. National Phase Entry of PCT/EP00/09882  
"Interface Module for a Local Data Network"  
Filed: 18 January 2002  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**Version with markings to show changes made**

**In the specification**

Kindly replace the last paragraph on page 18 continuing onto page 19 as follows:

A first alloy system has the composition  $Co_a(Fe_{1-c}Mn_c)_bNi_dM_eSi_xB_yC_z$ , with M indicating one or more elements from the group Nb, Mo, Ta, Cr, W, Ge, and/or P and  $a+b+d+e+x+y+z = 100$ , with

Co:  $a = 40 - 82$  at%, preferably  $55 < a < 72$  at%,

Fe+Mn:  $b = 3 - 10$  at%,

Mn/Fe:  $c = 0 - 1$ , preferably  $[x]c < 0.5$ ,

Ni:  $d = 0 - 30$  at%, preferably  $d < 20$  at%,

M:  $e = 0 - 5$  at%, preferably  $e < 3$  at%,

Si:  $x = 0 - 18$  at%, preferably  $x > 1$  at%,

B:  $y = 8 - 26$  at%, preferably  $8 - 20$  at%,

C:  $z = 0 - 3$  at%,

$15 < e+x+y+z < 30$ , preferably  $20 < e+x+y+z < 30$ .

**In the claims**

1. (Amended) An [I]interface module for local data networks having an inductive component [(7)] used as a transformer for coupling interface circuits to a data line used to connect computers, with the inductive component having a magnetic core [(9)] and multiple windings applied to the core, [characterized in that] wherein the inductive component [(7)]

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used as a transformer has a magnetic core [(9)] made of an amorphous or nanocrystalline alloy with a permeability  $\mu > 15,000$  and the number of turns of the windings is between 5 and 25.

2. (Amended) The [I]interface module according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the amorphous or nanocrystalline alloy has a permeability  $\mu > 30,000$ .

3. (Amended) The [I]interface module according to claim 1 [or 2], [characterized in that] wherein the alloy has the composition  $\text{Co}_a(\text{Fe}_{1-c}\text{Mn}_d)_b\text{Ni}_d\text{M}_e\text{Si}_x\text{B}_y\text{C}_z$ , with M indicating one or more elements from the group Nb, Mo, Ta, Cr, W, Ge, and/or P and  $a+b+d+e+x+y+z = 100$ , with

Co             $a = 40 - 82 \text{ at\%}$

Fe+Mn       $b = 3 - 10 \text{ at\%}$

Mn/Fe        $c = 0 - 1$

Ni             $d = 0 - 30 \text{ at\%}$

M             $e = 0 - 5 \text{ at\%}$

Si             $x = 0 - 17 \text{ at\%}$

B             $y = 8 - 26 \text{ at\%}$

C             $z = 0 - 3 \text{ at\%}$

and  $15 \text{ at\%} < e+x+y+z < 30 \text{ at\%}$ .

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4. (Amended) The [I]interface module according to claim 3, [characterized in that]  
wherein the following relationships apply:

Co        a = 55 - 72 at%

Mn/Fe      c = 0 - 0.5

Ni        d = 0 - 20 at%

M        e = 0 - 3 at%

B        y = 8 - 20 at%

Si        x = 1 - 18 at%

and  $20 \text{ at\%} < e+x+y+z < 30 \text{ at\%}$ .

5. (Amended) The [I]interface module according to claim 1 [or 2], [characterized in  
that] wherein the alloy has the composition  $\text{Fe}_x\text{Cu}_y\text{M}_z\text{Si}_v\text{B}_w$ , with M indicating an element  
from the group Nb, W, Ta, Zr, Hf, Ti, Mo, or a combination of these and  $x + y + z + v + w =$   
100%, with

Fe        x = 100% - y - z - v - w

Cu        y = 0.5 - 2 at%

M        z = 1 - 6 at%

Si        v = 6.5 - 18 at%

B        w = 5 - 14 at%

with  $v + w > 18 \text{ at\%}$ .

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6. (Amended) The [I]interface module according to claim 5, [characterized in that]  
wherein the following relationships apply:

Cu         $y = 1 \text{ at\%}$

M         $z = 2 - 4 \text{ at\%}$

Si         $v = 14 - 17 \text{ at\%},$

with  $v + w = 20$  to  $24 \text{ at\%}$ .

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7. (Amended) The [I]interface module according to claim 1 [or 2], [characterized in  
that] wherein the alloy has the composition  $\text{Fe}_x\text{Zr}_y\text{Nb}_z\text{B}_v\text{Cu}_w$ , with  $x + y + z + v + w = 100$   
at\%, with

Fe         $x = 100 \text{ at\%} - y - z - v - w$

Zr         $y = 2 - 5 \text{ at\%}$

Nb         $z = 2 - 5 \text{ at\%}$

B         $v = 5 - 9 \text{ at\%}$

Cu         $w = 0.5 - 1.5 \text{ at\%}$

with  $y + z > 5 \text{ at\%}$  and  $y + z + v > 11 \text{ at\%}$ .

8. (Amended) The [I]interface module according to claim 7, [characterized in that]  
wherein the following relationships apply:

Fe         $x = 83 - 86 \text{ at\%}$

Zr         $y = 3 - 4 \text{ at\%}$

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Nb         $z = 3 - 4$  at%

Cu         $w = 1$  at%

with  $y + z > 7$  at% and  $y + z + v > 12$  to 16 at%.

9. (Amended) The [I]interface module according to claim 1 [or 2], [characterized in that] wherein the alloy has the composition  $Fe_xM_yB_zCu_w$ , with M indicating an element from the group Zr, Hf, Nb and  $x + y + z + w = 100$  at%, with

Fe         $x = 100$  at% -  $y - z - w$

M         $y = 6 - 8$  at%

B         $z = 3 - 9$  at%

Cu         $w = 0 - 1.5$  at%.

10. (Amended) The [I]interface module according to claim 9, [characterized in that]  
wherein the following relationships apply:

Fe         $x = 83 - 91$  at%

M         $y = 7$  at%.

11. (Amended) The [I]interface module according to claim 1 [or 2], [characterized in that] wherein the alloy has the composition  $(Fe_{0.98}Co_{0.02})_{90-x}Zr_7B_{2+x}Cu_1$ , with  $x = 0 - 3$  at%, with the residual alloy component Co able to be replaced by Ni with appropriate equalization.

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12. (Amended) The [I]interface module according to claim 11, [characterized in that]  
wherein x = 0.

13. (New) The interface module according to claim 2, wherein the alloy has the composition  $Co_a(Fe_{1-c}Mn_c)_bNi_dM_eSi_xB_yC_z$ , with M indicating one or more elements from the group Nb, Mo, Ta, Cr, W, Ge, and/or P and  $a+b+d+e+x+y+z = 100$ , with

Co         $a = 40 - 82$  at%

Fe+Mn     $b = 3 - 10$  at%

Mn/Fe     $c = 0 - 1$

Ni         $d = 0 - 30$  at%

M         $e = 0 - 5$  at%

Si         $x = 0 - 17$  at%

B         $y = 8 - 26$  at%

C         $z = 0 - 3$  at%

and  $15$  at%  $< e+x+y+z < 30$  at%.

14. (New) The interface module according to claim 2, wherein the alloy has the composition  $Fe_xCu_yM_zSi_vB_w$ , with M indicating an element from the group Nb, W, Ta, Zr, Hf, Ti, Mo, or a combination of these and  $x + y + z + v + w = 100\%$ , with

Fe         $x = 100\% - y - z - v - w$

Cu         $y = 0.5 - 2$  at%

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M  $z = 1 - 6$  at%

Si  $v = 6.5 - 18$  at%

B  $w = 5 - 14$  at%

with  $v + w > 18$  at%.

15. (New) The interface module according to claim 2, wherein the alloy has the composition  $Fe_xZr_yNb_zB_vCu_w$ , with  $x + y + z + v + w = 100$  at%, with

Fe  $x = 100$  at% -  $y - z - v - w$

Zr  $y = 2 - 5$  at%

Nb  $z = 2 - 5$  at%

B  $v = 5 - 9$  at%

Cu  $w = 0.5 - 1.5$  at%

with  $y + z > 5$  at% and  $y + z + v > 11$  at%.

16. (New) The interface module according to claim 2, wherein the alloy has the composition  $Fe_xM_yB_zCu_w$ , with M indicating an element from the group Zr, Hf, Nb and  $x + y + z + w = 100$  at%, with

Fe  $x = 100$  at% -  $y - z - w$

M  $y = 6 - 8$  at%

B  $z = 3 - 9$  at%

Cu  $w = 0 - 1.5$  at%.

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17. (New) The interface module according to claim 2, wherein the alloy has the composition  $(Fe_{0.98}Co_{0.02})_{90-x}Zr_xB_{2+x}Cu_1$ , with  $x = 0 - 3$  at%, with the residual alloy component Co able to be replaced by Ni with appropriate equalization.

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